

How Much Would a Home Health Care Co-Payment Cost New York Users?

Home health care is one of the few services that remain free of charge for Medicare recipients. A cheaper alternative to nursing home or hospital care, Congress has attempted to keep the service free of charge in order to encourage its use and keep overall Medicare costs down. With legislators expected to decide by the end of the week whether to go forward with plans to add a \$45 co-payment for each 60-day stint of home health care, New York Medicare users could face rising health care costs next year. Medicare users in New York are expected to use over 150,000 stints of home health care in 2004 according to the Hospitals Association of New York State. If Congress implements the proposed co-payment plan, it could cost New York Medicare users over \$6.9 million. ***For a county by county break down of how co-payment costs would affect the cost of home health care in New York, please see the following report.***

The Capital Region: Medicare users in the Capital Region could pay \$357,615 in home health care costs if a \$45 premium is required for each of the 7,947 home health care stints that area users are expected to require in 2003.

County	Home Health Care Stints	Co-Payment Cost
Albany	2,300	\$103,500
Rensselaer	1,231	\$55,395
Schenectady	1,178	\$53,010
Saratoga	1,649	\$74,205
Fulton	444	\$19,980
Montgomery	398	\$17,910
Schoharie	254	\$11,430
Washington	493	\$22,185
Capital Region	7,947	\$357,615

Central New York: Medicare users in Central New York could pay \$338,265 in home health care costs if a \$45 premium is required for each of the 7,517 home health care stints that area users are expected to require in 2003.

County	Home Health Care Stints	Co-Payment Cost
Oneida	1,885	\$84,825
Oswego	986	\$44,370
Madison	562	\$25,290
Cortland	391	\$17,595
Onondaga	3,693	\$166,185
Central New York	7,517	\$338,265

Rochester and the Finger Lakes: Medicare users in Rochester and the Finger Lakes could pay \$453,015 in home health care costs if a \$45 premium is required for each of the 10,067 home health care stints that area users are expected to require in 2003.

County	Home Health Care Stints	Co-Payment Cost
Cayuga	657	\$29,565
Seneca	270	\$12,150
Yates	198	\$8,910
Ontario	814	\$36,630
Wayne	757	\$34,065
Monroe	5,918	\$266,310
Livingston	520	\$23,400
Schuyler	155	\$6,975
Tompkins	778	\$35,010
Finger Lakes	10,067	\$453,015

The Hudson Valley: Medicare users in the Hudson Valley could pay \$839,070 in home health care costs if a \$45 premium is required for each of the 18,646 home health care stints that area users are expected to require in 2003.

County	Home Health Care Stints	Co-Payment Cost
Westchester	7,493	\$337,185
Rockland	2,328	\$104,760
Putnam	784	\$35,280
Dutchess	2,294	103,230
Ulster	1,436	\$64,620
Sullivan	598	\$26,910
Orange	2,813	\$126,585
Greene	390	\$17,550
Columbia	510	\$22,950
Hudson Valley	18,646	\$839,070

The North Country: Medicare users in the North Country could pay \$199,935 in home health care costs if a \$45 premium is required for each of the 4,443 home health care stints that area users are expected to require in 2003.

County	Home Health Care Stints	Co-Payment Cost
Warren	516	\$23,220
Essex	313	\$14,085
Clinton	646	\$29,070
Franklin	411	\$18,495
Hamilton	43	\$1,935
St Lawrence	897	\$40,365
Herkimer	517	\$23,265
Lewis	216	\$9,720
Jefferson	884	\$39,780
North Country	4,443	\$199,935

The Southern Tier: Medicare users in the Southern Tier could pay \$236,160 in home health care costs if a \$45 premium is required for each of the 5,248 home health care stints that area users are expected to require in 2003.

County	Home Health Care Stints	Co-Payment Cost
Delaware	383	\$17,235
Otsego	496	\$22,320
Chenango	413	\$18,585
Broome	1,607	\$72,315
Tioga	416	\$18,720
Chemung	731	\$32,895
Steuben	800	\$36,000
Allegany	402	\$18,090
Southern Tier	5,248	\$236,160

Western New York: Medicare users in Western New York could pay \$556,110 in home health care costs if a \$45 premium is required for each of the 12,358 home health care stints that area users are expected to require in 2003.

County	Home Health Care Stints	Co-Payment Cost
Orleans	354	\$15,930
Genesee	484	\$21,780
Wyoming	347	\$15,615
Erie	7,618	\$342,810
Niagara	1,763	\$79,335
Cattaraugus	673	\$30,285
Chautauqua	1,119	\$50,355
Western New York	12,358	\$556,110

Source: Analysis based on estimates provided by Home Care Association of New York State, Inc. (HCA)